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SUBJECT: DEMARCHES DELIVERED ON UPCOMING SESSION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: A. STATE 157283 B. STATE 160278

On September 27, Polcouns delivered reftel demarches to Maria del Refugio Gonzalez Dominguez, Assistant Secretary of Human Rights and Multilateral Affairs, and Ulises Canchola Gutierrez, Director General of the Office for the United Nations, both of the Secretariat for Foreign Relations (SRE).

In a lengthy conversation, Polcouns made key points, particularly stressing the need to keep the upcoming session broadly focused and encouraging Mexico to parry Cuba's attempt to have the Council eliminate the mandate of the Special Representative and bar NGOs from participating in discussions of country-specific resolutions. Post had passed non-papers with key points to SRE the previous day. SRE interlocutors agreed that no special treatment should be accorded Cuba in the process of reviewing mandates, and foresaw no changes in the nature of NGO participation in country-specific discussions in the upcoming session. However, they felt that NGO participation might be looked at in the future in order to "channel it more constructively" and avoid "over-burdening" sessions with lengthy interventions. With regards to points in Ref A, SRE believes that the most productive use of the upcoming session will be to clarify rules and establish better norms of behavior, and that introducing additional country-specific resolutions for Burma and North Korea at this point would be counter-productive.

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GARZA